Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.—

It is not possible to take it up immediately. Whether it can be taken up next year remains to be seen.

Question time being over, MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO observed that, both in this session as well as during the previous ones, non-official business had not been given the time allotted to it as per programme. It might be that the President, in exercising the powers vested in him under the rules, re-arranged the order of business to suit the convenience of members of the House, but that was a separate matter from strict adherence to rules. Such systematic denial of adequate time for private business was a violation of Rule IV (2) and it had also caused a legitimate grievance and apprehension in the minds of the members that Government were gradually and surely curtailing the rights and privileges of the House. He therefore hoped that, at least in future, the President of the House would allot sufficient time for non-official business and strictly conform to the programme and to the rules.

THE DEWAN stated that, in the current session, the time for non-official business was somewhat less as the legislative business to be transacted was heavy. But he assured the House that there was no desire on the part of Government to curtail the time for private business and that they would see that, as far as possible, the time allotted for it was not trenched upon in future.

RESOLUTIONS—(*concluded*).

Resolution No. 5.

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja the desirability of effecting a percentage cut in salaries of public servants as follows in order to tide over the present financial difficulties :—

Those who draw salaries—

	Rs.		Rs.		Per cent.
from	100	to	199	...	5
„	200	„	499	...	7½
„	500	„	999	...	10
„	1,000	and	above	...	15."

MOVERS.—MESSRS. M. C. LINGE GOWDA (Mandya Taluk), K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA (Nagamangala Taluk), G. CHANNAPPA (Yedatore Taluk), KULLEGOWDA (Seringapatam Taluk), S. THIMMEGOWDA *alias* THAMMAIYAGOWDA

(Special Interest), S. C. MALLIAH (Mandya Taluk), H. R. T. RAJAGOPALA MUDALIAR (Hunsur Taluk), RANGADASAIYA (Minority Interest), IBRAHIM KHAN (Hunsur Municipality), GURUKAR NANJAPPA (Gundlupet Taluk), T. SADASIVAMURTHI (T.-Narsipur Taluk), K. IBRAHIM KHAN (Minority Interest), A. LINGEGOWDA (Krishnarajpet Taluk), T. M. KAPANI GOWDA (Nagamangala Taluk), B. SIDDALINGA SETTY (Yedatore Taluk), MARIAPPA (Minority Interest), K. NAGANNA (Yelandur Jahgir), H. K. MADAIYA (Malvalli Taluk), H. HONNAIYA (Mandya Taluk), SIVANANJE GOWDA (Seringapatam Taluk), MAHOMED SAIT (Minority Interest), MUDLAGIRIGOWDA (Malavalli Municipality), PUTTASAMI GOWDA (Malavalli Taluk), G. MALLANNA (Mysore Taluk), C. MARIGOWDA (Krishnarajpet Taluk), S. VENKATASUBBA SETTY (Chamarajanagar Municipality), PUTTAMADAPPA (Nanjangud Taluk), K. V. VEERANNA (Chamarajanagar Taluk), H. C. DASAPPA (Special Interest), C. DASAPPA (Heggadadevankote Taluk), S. DEVAIYA (Seringapatam Taluk), M. SUBBAIYA (Seringapatam Municipality), B. LINGEGOWDA (Heggadadevankote Taluk), M. C. CHALUVAIYA (Minority Interest), H. V. HANUMANTHA SETTY (Hunsur Taluk).

MR. H. C. DASAPPA moved the above resolution. He said that even at the last session, when the question of a cut in salaries of Government officials came up, the Government were not inclined to accept the very principle of such a step. But the financial position of the State, like that of almost all provinces, had since become so bad that the Government themselves had been compelled to take up the question of their own accord. The only question for discussion, therefore, was that of the percentage of such cuts. If the Dewan's Address, which indicated the Government's decision to effect a percentage cut had also mentioned the rates, perhaps there would not have been any need to move a resolution like this. The movers of the resolution had examined every aspect of the question and had suggested certain percentages with a full sense of responsibility and a proper appreciation of all the difficulties of Government officers, so that even after effecting the cut as proposed, the officers would still be left with money enough to maintain themselves and their dependents at a decent level. That such reductions had been effected in Japan, New Zealand and some other countries had already been brought to the notice of the House at its previous session, and it had to be

mentioned on the present occasion that subsequently, similar action had been taken in Great Britain itself as also in almost every other country. Even the King Emperor had been pleased to forego a material portion of his Privy Purse, and in Mysore itself, His Highness the Maharaja was gracious to contribute 2 lakhs of rupees to the State in view of its financial difficulty. He said that it was up to the officers of the State to cheerfully follow the example so generously set by His Highness.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA seconded the resolution and said that, at a critical time like the present, the officers must willingly respect popular feeling and contribute their quota in helping the Government out of its present financial stringency.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, in opposing the resolution, stated that reduction of salaries was a very extreme step which should not be resorted to unless and until every one was satisfied that there was absolutely no other means of balancing the budget. It was a step which had never before been taken in spite of the fact that the State had passed through the worst possible times in the past. That was because every one had realised that those who were toiling for the State and its subjects should be treated well and not put to difficulty. However, on the present occasion, the Government had definitely decided to effect a cut and so there was no use discussing that aspect of the question. The only aspect in regard to which a decision had probably not yet been taken was the extent of such cut. It would be well to remember that in olden days the generality of Government officers, especially executive officers, were drawing low enough salaries and yet, at the time of retirement, they found that the savings at their credit amounted sometimes to lakhs of rupees and often to several thousands. Now-a-days, however, even those drawing Rs. 500 and more could not save anything. For one thing, their standard of life was very high, and for another, they were above board. For instance, complaints of corruption on the part of Government officials were being frequently brought up at the Assembly formerly, but these were conspicuous by their absence latterly. Here and there, cases of corruption might come to notice; but, generally speaking, officers of Government were thoroughly honest and were known for their disinterestedness, fearlessness and probity. That was the very strength and the very difficulty of the Government officials at present, for, while being free from any blame on account of their honesty, they were often unable to meet their

current expenses on account of a higher standard of life expected of them. This was actually the case even with officers getting Rs. 1,000 and more. Most of the Government officials were heavily indebted, made no property of their own, and all that was to their credit at the time of retirement was their life insurance amount; because on account of maintenance of motor cars,, of costly dress, and such other reasons, all their pay would have to be spent throughout their period of service. Bearing these facts in mind, it would be most unwise to think of curtailing salaries at such hard times like the present. Of course, the State had difficulties of its own, the legitimate wants and grievances of the subjects of the State had to be urgently attended to, and necessary funds had to be found for all that. But reduction of salaries was not the means by which such a goal should be reached. Instead, if funds could not be found in any other way, savings might be effected by reduction of hands. Any cut in salaries was certain to involve thousands of Government employees in untold misery; the standards of living to which they were so long used could not be lowered substantially, and consequently the bulk of them were sure to be hit hard.....

THE DEWAN pointed out that any cut in salaries would be a temporary measure, in view of the very difficult financial position.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN replied that it was not a justifiable step. Such a procedure might have been contemplated in British India and elsewhere, but that analogy did not hold in the case of Mysore where the scales of pay were decidedly lower. If any reduction was effected in the existing scales which were low enough, the inevitable consequence would be that almost every competent official would leave the State and seek likely appointments elsewhere and the work of the State would go down to second grade and third grade officials. These were facts which evidently had not been realised by the movers of the resolution and the amendment thereto. While the resolution itself had suggested cuts varying from 5 to 15 per cent, the amendment went so far as to suggest even 50 per cent which was appalling. He was of opinion that, even if a cut in salaries was considered absolutely necessary, it should in no case exceed 10 per cent. Any higher percentage would take the hearts out of the officials and it was for the House to realise what kind of work could be got from discontented and despondent subordinates. Unfortunately,

in almost every case, there were any number of dependents on every earning member of any Indian family, and it would be really hard to reduce, even slightly, the salary of officials drawing Rs. 100 or less. The Assembly should finally bear in mind that, in regard to the decision of this question, not even a single representative of Government officials had any voice, and remember also that they could never find an answer if such a representative argued out his case even from the single point of view of the imperative need for preserving the sense of security which always attached to service under any Government.

Amendment.

MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO moved an amendment to substitute the following percentages of cuts in salaries:—

	Rs.		Rs.	Per cent.
From	100	to	199	... 10
„	200	„	499	... 20
„	500	„	999	... 40
„	1,000	and	above	... 50

and, in doing so, he said that once the principle of effecting cuts in order to balance the budget was conceded, the only question for consideration was whether the rates proposed in the resolution were adequate for the purpose. The conclusion arrived at by the Retrenchment Committee to the effect that cuts were unnecessary and inexpedient was based on an inadequate appreciation of the real condition of the finances of the State, but it was a matter for some satisfaction that the Government had recognised the need for effecting cuts. But the rates proposed in the resolution would not result in material savings; Government would require at least Rs. 30 lakhs for meeting the existing commitments for the amelioration of the condition of the State. It was not meant for merely balancing the budget. In this view, he thought that the policy underlying the cuts should not be a halting one, but that the cuts should be real and substantial. He therefore commended his amendment for the acceptance of the House.

The second point for consideration was that, once the cuts were effected and savings realised, it was important that the Government should not utilise the savings for the running expenses of the administration, to the prejudice of many popular needs which were always being pressed on the attention of the Government by the representatives of the people.

The savings must be utilised for providing educational facilities, tanks, drinking water wells and the like. Thirdly, officials drawing less than Rs. 100 were never sufficiently well off and under no circumstances should their pay be curtailed even slightly. Under these circumstances, the rates suggested in the amendment deserved to be substituted for those mentioned in the resolution.

MR. K. T. SATYANARAYANA SETTY seconded the amendment.

MR. M. C. LINGE GOWDA opposed the amendment. He said that he generally agreed with the observations of Khan Bahadur Mahomed Abbas Khan that there was not so much of corruption on the part of Government officials now. He thought that it was absolutely necessary that officials should be kept quite contented and prevented from going out of the way. Above all, he did not think it wise to make substantial cuts because that would result in seriously demoralising the services. If there should be a cut in salaries at all, there should be a certain limit but not to the extent proposed in the amendment.

DHARMAPRAVARTHA MR. M. L. NAGAPPA SETTY also opposed it on the same ground and said that discontentment and demoralisation were bound to have serious repercussions on the administration as a whole. In fact, better salaries were called for if better work was wanted. Government officials, who were already finding it difficult adequately to attend to the educational and other needs of their children, would become utterly unable to do so if their income was reduced. The cost of education of one single college student was Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month, and what should be the fate of parents who had many children to educate if their income was curtailed? And if any cuts were effected, laying by anything for bad times or for old age would become entirely out of the question. Apart from all that, unless officials were paid adequately they would be compelled to find their own means of supplementing their resources in order that they might be able to make both ends meet. Even then, it was the public at large that would have to take the consequences. Such a position was altogether undesirable. The scales of pay obtaining in Mysore were much lower than those elsewhere. Due to the retrenchments which were already being effected, many temporary men would be thrown out and permanent men who were acting in higher places would naturally have to revert to their original places and lose in emoluments. So any further reduction of salaries was

bound to be felt as a double hardship. Again, many allowances had been withdrawn as per recent orders of Government and so the proposed cuts in salaries of those who were in receipt of such allowances should not be given effect to. He was of opinion that a better arrangement would be to reduce the number of hands wherever possible and save some recurring expenditure rather than reduce the salaries of officials by means of cuts. For example, certain coffee planters had effected retrenchments in their own establishments, due to the recent slump in the coffee market, but subsequently they realised that it had given room for great discontentment on the part of the employees and for a likelihood of further losses to the planters. So they were already thinking of reverting to the previous level of pay to their employees. The same analogy would hold in the case of Government officials also and it was thus unwise to think of reducing salaries.

MR. D. S. MALLAPPA observed that, while the rates proposed in the resolution were too low, those suggested in the amendment were too high. He was therefore unable to support either of the two extremes.

At this stage, the amendment was put to vote and *lost*, only 4 members voting for and a large number against.

MR. SITHARAMIAH, in supporting the main resolution, pointed out that an abnormal situation had arisen to meet which it was necessary that even Government officers should, out of patriotic motives, contribute their mite by foregoing a portion of their salaries. Such a necessity had been felt as was explained by the Dewan in his opening speech itself. Although the majority of the members of the Retrenchment Committee did not find it necessary to suggest a percentage cut in salaries, yet Government themselves were forced to decide to effect a cut, as a temporary measure at least, since they thought there was no scope for additional taxation. For this decision of Government, the speaker felt very glad. But he was however of opinion that the salaries between Rs. 40 and Rs. 100 should not be affected by that decision of Government.

MR. K. T. SATYANARAYANA SETTY supported the resolution. With reference to the observations made by Mr. Abbas Khan that, unless officials were paid adequately, they could not be expected to be thoroughly straightforward and honest, he said that there was no doubt that honesty should be scrupulously maintained in the public service. But the main point for consideration was whether, at such a time of

general financial stringency, with its repercussions on the raiyat population, it was right to allow the officials alone to live in plenty while their less fortunate compeers were finding it difficult to make both ends meet. At such a time of real trouble, it was absolutely necessary that the official class also should be made to undergo some amount of sacrifice. The main principle that should determine the amount of such sacrifice was whoever was in a position to save something out of his pay must be made to submit to a cut. The speaker did not however consider that officials below Rs. 100 should be called upon to make any such sacrifice. He was particular that there should be no discontent among the lower officials of Government. This was a time when they were just beginning to pay off their old debts and trying to live in some sort of peace and contentment. He was also of opinion that it was really the lower officials that worked harder under the guidance of the higher officers and as such real workers of this kind should not be affected by any policy of cut in salaries. Although he thought that the percentage of cut proposed in the resolution was too small, yet he had no hesitation to agree to the principle involved in the resolution.

Mr. Bagamane Deva Gowda, who followed, said that it was incumbent on Government to save money in all possible ways in order to carry on the administration and also give the required relief to the raiyats. He agreed that one way in which some expenditure could be saved was by cutting down the salaries of officers. In this view, he agreed to the principle of the resolution. But he thought that the percentage cut proposed in the case of officers drawing salaries above Rs. 500 up to Rs. 1,000, could have been a little more. He was of opinion that, under the present conditions, such officers were able to save twice as much as they could save formerly and that, if they would only lead a simple life, there would be no need for them to spend more on themselves and by this they could save enough for themselves and to meet also the demands of administration. He was of opinion that the scale of pay in Mysore was already high and that the question of top-heaviness of the administration was being brought up before the Assembly year after year. Comparing the salaries in Mysore with those in foreign countries, he could say that the salaries in Mysore could be reduced by 50 per cent or more. There was no doubt that the travelling allowance of officers had been reduced very recently; but, in his opinion, this had worked more harm to the raiyats than real good, as the officers would not travel freely and

look after the welfare of the raiyats as efficiently as they were doing before. He therefore thought that more than anything else the immediate remedy was a substantial cut in the salaries of higher officers.

At this stage, MR. G. CHANNAPPA moved for the closure of the debate.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA, in briefly replying to the debate, thanked all those who supported the resolution, and as the rates suggested by him in the resolution were not very high and seemed to be acceptable to all, requested Government to accept the resolution.

Before putting the resolution to vote, the DEWAN made the following observations:—

It would not be right to base any action in regard to reduction of salaries on conditions obtaining in countries thousands of miles away. For one thing, we do not know all the circumstances of those countries and we cannot take action affecting the administration on indefinite information given in newspaper reports about distant countries. If any comparison should be made, it should be with the conditions prevailing in the adjoining British Indian Provinces. Our standard of salaries is not as high as that in British India and the consequences of any substantial lowering of that standard cannot be ignored. A sudden and drastic reduction in salaries is bound to do harm to public interests. The real question is what remuneration should be paid to get men of the type required for the public services. We want men who are capable and honest and we want them to work with enthusiasm, energy and initiative. If we do not pay proper remuneration, it would not be possible to get men of the type we want. After all, it is a question of choice of careers, and capable men would either take to some other profession or seek employment elsewhere where they would get proper value for their services, if the public service here ceases to be sufficiently attractive. It was stated that patriotic men would be content with small remuneration, or perhaps would agree to render honorary service. When we are discussing a question of manning the public services, we should not overlook the fact that the human nature we have got to keep in view is the average human nature. Remuneration for services rendered cannot be based upon considerations of patriotism or the spirit of public service of a few individuals.

One member spoke as if reduction of salaries was the means of finding money for meeting all public demands. According to this view, salaries are capable of indefinite

reduction and perhaps no salaries need be paid as there may be persons willing to offer their services free. I am afraid arguments like these cannot be taken seriously. It is altogether a wrong view to take that salaries of officers is a reservoir to be drawn upon whenever there is some demand to be met. If any such course of action was taken, public interests would inevitably suffer. The sense of security is one of the essential elements of public service and we should proceed very cautiously and with great circumspection in making any reduction of salaries. It is only at a time of extreme financial stringency that a measure like that could be adopted, to some limited extent, and only as a temporary arrangement.

The proper manning of public services is a most important matter and Government who are responsible for efficiency of the services must take a practical view of the problem, and it is not possible to make radical changes in the scales of salaries of public services without doing great harm to public interests.

The Dewan added that, in view of the present financial position, the question of a percentage cut in the salaries of Government officers was under the consideration of Government and that their decision would be published shortly.

The resolution was then put to vote and *carried*.

Resolution No. 21.

MR. J. R. ISAAC then moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that they may be pleased to introduce legislation in order to suppress immorality in the State of Mysore."

Sir, the resolution that I have brought before the House, at the outset, seems to be one which is not needed and you will be asking the question "Do we need any reform in this matter?" I have come to tell you, Sir, that an organisation has been formed in the Mysore State—in Bangalore as well as in Mysore—to investigate into this vice, and for the last two years they have been working in this line. Through personal investigations, they have found out certain facts which make them feel that reform in this matter is immediately necessary. What they have found out is, we generally think, that the number of bad houses is not small. It is large and that is not an insignificant one. They have also found out that not only in these big cities but also in smaller towns most of those women who are unfortunately

prostitutes are practically diseased. There are not perhaps two or three per cent who are not diseased. Hence, the maintenance of prostitute houses is a menace to Society. The committee has been able to investigate cases after cases and to find out what diseases are spreading in the community. And that also has been the reason why they think that some legislation is necessary to be brought into effect forthwith in the Mysore State.

The committee has also found out another thing. In most of these bad houses, always a good number of minors are kept. The minors have been brought from different places, they not knowing for what purpose they have been brought there. They are trained in these bad houses and are kept there for a long time. So much so, they also are practically forced to practisé prostitution later on.

Another thing that has come to the notice of this investigation committee is that many of the girls in such bad houses are unwilling inmates of the houses. Somehow, they have been brought in and, if they had only a chance, they would go away.

One more thing that I should like to bring to the notice of Government is that this vice is existing in an organised form. It is true that no State can stamp out vice; but certainly every State can stamp out organised vice. The vice existing in many places is, to a large extent, an organised one. In our investigations, we have come across several cases where families have been found actually living upon the immorality of these people. We owe a duty to our younger generation to stamp out the evil. Mostly out of ignorance, many a time, many of our young men are turned away to such parts wherefrom they bring disease, with the result they break down altogether and are made unable to proceed with their education. We owe a duty to these unfortunate girls also for redeeming them and bringing them back to respectable society. This is not a new thing in India. We know that, in Calcutta, in Madras, in Bombay and in other places, they have already introduced legislation and have been taking steps to redeem these bad women and also suppress this traffic in immorality. You may notice that in cities like Mysore and Bangalore, there is a regular traffic going on in immorality. Though hidden, the evil is there. So, we are appealing to this House to-day to see that this organised vice is suppressed, this immoral traffic as well as prostitution are suppressed. The committee which has been working on these lines has already drafted a Bill, and if

Government should care to look into and see if there is anything good in it by which reform could be brought about, the committee would be most grateful. All that we request is that a certain amount of interest should be taken by this House on this question. The legislation needed is good for the health and the moral improvement of our country.

In seconding the resolution, MR. D. S. MALLAPPA observed that the State was suffering from the evil of many minor girls having been introduced into a life of vice. When once a girl was taken into a prostitute's house, it was impossible for her to come out of it. To prevent such a thing, he thought a Regulation of the kind suggested by the mover was necessary. He pointed out that it would not serve any useful purpose if it was simply passed and not actually brought into practice. There were various ways in which reform could be undertaken, one of which being the establishment of more rescue homes. For this purpose, he was of opinion that Government should actively co-operate with public men so that in a very short time the vice of immorality might be obliterated from the country.

Amendment.

At this stage, MR. H. C. DASAPPA moved the following amendment which he had given notice of :—

Instead of the words "in order to suppress immorality," *insert* "in order to regulate and control prostitution."

In doing so, he observed that the main reason for his moving the amendment was that it was not possible to stamp out the vice altogether from the State with any amount of vigilance on the part of the police. But what was required was that minor girls should not be forced into a life of vice and adequate steps should be taken in that regard.

Secondly, it was not possible to suppress immorality altogether. On the other hand, it could be controlled and regulated, by segregating bad women and licensing prostitution. In this view, he said that he moved his amendment.

In seconding the amendment, MR. P. SITHARAMIAH said that there was practically no difference of opinion between the mover of the resolution and the mover of the amendment. While the original proposition was very wide, the amendment sought to suggest the lines on which the law should proceed At present, except Sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code, there were none others to punish offences against

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morality. In the Municipal Regulation also, while there was provision for licensing brothels, there was nothing to regulate them. In this view, he said that what was necessary was to control immorality rather than to suppress it and with this end in view legislation should be brought forward by Government.

The mover of the original resolution said that the association referred to by him had built a rescue home at Bangalore in order to stop the spread of venereal diseases. But the speaker thought that it was necessary also to bring the people who were spreading the disease to some kind of punishment. In Madras and Bombay, there was such a legislation. He was of opinion that it was sufficient for the present if a similar legislation was introduced in Mysore also.

The amendment was then put to vote but was *lost*. Thereafter discussion on the main resolution was continued.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA said that it was not necessary to fetter the independence of men and women in the manner proposed at a time when people were fighting for their independence. There were many women in the country who lived by prostitution. People knew exactly where such houses were situated. It was something like a public urinal in a municipality. If such a urinal were removed, people would commit nuisance wherever they pleased, with the result that the whole public health would be affected. Similarly, if prostitution was sought to be interfered with by legislation, he was afraid that public morality itself would be in danger, more especially as the natural human craving of people could not be controlled by legislation. If, as the mover said, by legislation the spread of the disease could be prevented, legislation was not the only way in which it could be done. Government had every power, through their police, to prevent the spread of the disease instead of placing restrictions on men and women. On these grounds, he opposed the resolution.

MR. PUTTASAMI GOWDA supported the resolution.

MR. SIDDALINGIAH said that it was difficult to change human nature and that there was no use of passing merely resolutions of this kind unless it was possible to give practical effect to them. He therefore did not think that a legislation of the kind proposed was possible.

The resolution was thereupon put to vote and *passed* by a majority.